

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently amended) A hood, in particular for a clothing item for protective and military purposes, such as an NBC protective suit, said hood comprising:

a hood body having a peripheral edge defining a face opening, said face opening being constructed and arranged for receiving a respirator;

~~a peripheral elastic hem constructed and arranged to form a face opening, the face opening being provided for receiving a respirator and the hem being constructed and arranged in abutting relation to the respirator in the use state, wherein one side of said hem faces into the face opening and is provided with~~  
attached to said peripheral edge, said peripheral elastic hem being constructed and arranged to extend around said face opening, said peripheral elastic hem having an inner face and an outer face; and

~~a plurality of peripheral sealing elements which are conjoined to the inner face of said peripheral elastic hem, said plurality of peripheral sealing elements comprised with the hem and are in the form of elastofibers and being constructed and arranged~~  
for abutment against and around the respirator received by said face opening, wherein the individual sealing elements are in substantially parallel arrangement with each other.

23. (Previously presented) The hood according to claim 22, wherein the sealing elements abut the respirator essentially linearly.
24. (Previously presented) The hood according to claim 22, wherein the sealing elements project or protrude from the hem.
25. (Previously presented) The hood according to claim 24, wherein the sealing elements project or protrude from the hem by not less than 0.25 mm, preferably not less than 0.4 mm.
26. (Currently amended) The hood according to claim 22, wherein the sealing elements are secured to the hem by using one of the securing methodologies selected from the group consisting of stitching, interweaving, adhering, stapling or welding.
27. (Currently amended) The hood according to claim 22, wherein the sealing elements are each configured as one of the forms selected from the group consisting of a sealing ring, as a sealing lip or as a sealing protrusion.
28. (Currently amended) The hood according to claim 22, wherein the sealing elements are constructed and arranged as one of the structures selected from the group consisting of thread, ligament-, string- or strip- shaped or webbed- or honeycomb-shaped.

29-30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously presented) The hood according to claim 22, wherein the cross-sectional thickness of the sealing elements is not less than 1/4 of the cross-sectional thickness of the hem.
32. (Previously presented) The hood according to claim 22, wherein the elasticity of the sealing elements corresponds at least essentially to the elasticity of the hem.
33. (Previously presented) The hood according to claim 22, wherein the sealing elements have a relative elastic extensibility, based on their original length, of not less than 30 %.
34. (Previously presented) The hood according to claim 22, wherein the material of which the sealing elements consist has, at 25 °C, a modulus of elasticity in stretching in the range of from  $5 \cdot 10^5 \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}^{-2}$  to  $9 \cdot 10^6 \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}^{-2}$ .
35. (Previously presented) The hood according to claim 22, wherein the hood including the face opening comprises, on the side portion of face opening, a fastener.

36. (Currently amended) The hood according to claim 22, wherein the hood is ~~fully or partially lined~~ includes a liner on its inside surface with an inside material, the inside material comprising a material selected from the group consisting of: (i) an adsorption-capable material on the basis of activated carbon, and (ii) a water-vapor-pervious, but gas-impervious barrier layer preventing or retarding the passage of harmful gases and liquids.
37. (Previously presented) A clothing item, in particular for protective and/or military purposes, such as an NBC protective suit or the like, comprising a hood as defined in claim 22.
38. (Currently amended) The clothing item according to claim 37, wherein the clothing item is ~~fully or partially lined~~ includes a liner on its inside surface with an inside material, the inside material comprising a material selected from the group consisting of: (i) an adsorption-capable material on the basis of activated carbon, and (ii) a water-vapor-pervious, but gas-impervious barrier layer preventing or retarding the passage of harmful gases and liquids.
39. (Currently amended) A clothing item, in particular for protective and military purposes, such as an NBC protective suit or the like, said clothing item comprising:
- a clothing body defining at least one opening for a body part, such as a hand, arm, foot, leg or head[.];

having a peripheral elastic hem attached to said clothing body, said peripheral elastic hem being constructed and arranged to form this extend around said opening, the opening being provided for receiving a further clothing item or an equipment article, said peripheral elastic hem having an inner face and an outer face; and

~~the hem being constructed and arranged in abutting relation to the further clothing item or the equipment article in the use state, wherein one side of said hem faces the further clothing item or the equipment article and faces into the opening and is provided with~~

a plurality of peripheral sealing elements which are conjoined with the to the inner face of said peripheral elastic hem and are in the form, said plurality of peripheral sealing elements comprised of elastofibers and being constructed and arranged for abutment against and around the further clothing item or equipment article, wherein the individual sealing elements are in substantially parallel arrangement with each other.

40. (Currently amended) A method for closing out the transition between a portion of a clothing item on the one hand and a further clothing item or equipment article on the other hand by using an elastic hem, comprising the steps of:

providing an elastic hem having an inner face and an outer face;

forming an joining said elastic hem that to said clothing item wherein said elastic hem faces the further clothing item or the equipment article;

providing a plurality of sealing elements in the form of elastofibers; and  
conjoining said plurality of sealing elements with the inner face of said  
hem for closeout abutment of the further clothing item or equipment article.

41. (Canceled)